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## HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY

December 15, 2017

To better prepare for real battles, Soldiers in 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd IBCT, 25th ID participate in a cold-hit site combined-arms live-fire exercise on Schofield Barracks.

# 2nd IBCT excels during company-level CALFEX

Story and photos by  
**STAFF SGT. DAVID N. BECKSTROM**  
2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — Adrenaline rushes and emotions flare during combat because decisions on the battlefield can have life or death consequences. This is the reason 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, hits training so hard.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 27th Inf. Regiment, 2nd IBCT, 25th ID, participated in the first company-level cold hit site combined arms live-fire exercise, here, Dec. 4-8.

“Being able to train in a controlled and safe environment allows our Soldiers to polish their skills,” said 1st Lt. Ryan Debooy, a plans officer with 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd IBCT. “However, it loses a sense of reality. The enemy won’t let our Soldiers come to their front door and practice how to defeat them. This is why a cold hit site exercise is so important.”

A cold-hit site refers to a training area the Soldiers have not trained on before. The Soldiers can use intelligence and images of the terrain to prepare ahead of time, but do not step onto the area until it is go-time.

“When units train on the same location for battle drill rehearsals as they do for live-fire events, they are able to perfect their tactics for that site,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Benavides, the senior enlisted adviser for 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt. “This doesn’t work in a deployed environment. Cold-hit site exercises force Soldiers to be adaptable and make critical decisions on the move.”



Soldiers from the 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd IBCT, 25th ID, train at a site that is new to them on Schofield Barracks. Training in a new environment enhances real-world fighting experience and critical thinking skills.

One of the goals of this training exercise was to allow leaders to exercise initiative and critical thinking skills during the live-fire portion of the training.

“Units have gotten away from doing cold hit exercises because commanders think it is too hard, but this is exactly what we would do in a deployed environment,” said Lt. Col. Valent Bernat, the commander of 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt. “We prepare our best by making our training as close to realistic as possible, but there will always be the sense of the unknown on the battlefield.”

A CALFEX is designed to utilize all the enablers for infantry units, such as artillery and air support to establish superior firepower on the battlefield.

“We train with the infantry because if we were to deploy we would be working alongside them,” said Spc. Ryan Reliford, a gunner in 2nd Bn., 11th Field Artillery Regt., 2nd IBCT. “Being able integrate our system and firepower with their mission allows us to be better prepared for a real fight.”

Infantry units have fire direction center teams to ensure that the rounds which



Soldiers with 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd IBCT, 25th ID, participate in a cold-hit site combined arms live-fire exercise on Schofield Barracks.

fire from artillery cannons are placed properly and do not endanger the Soldiers.

“Using artillery to help shape the battlefield will help us prevent loss of life from enemy fire,” said Capt. Lacie Hutchins, a fire direction center officer with 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Regt. “This will also allow us to eliminate the enemy while minimizing the risk to our Soldiers.”

2nd IBCT plans to continue to execute training scenarios like this, and under the most realistic conditions, to ensure that they are always ready for whatever the nation calls upon them to do.

# ‘Cacti’ improve core skills during training at MOUT site

Story and photo by  
**STAFF SGT. ARMANDO R. LIMON**  
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — With professional precision, Soldiers tactically stormed and seized an urban environment in broad daylight. They cleared a concrete building of the enemy and held the objective.

Infantrymen assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, “Cacti,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division, performed squad live-fire exercises (LFX) at the Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) site, here, Dec. 5-6.

Six squads conducted Battle Drill 6, which is known as entering a building and clearing a room, to improve their core infantry skills.

“One of our company’s weaknesses is building clearance during a stressful situation and coordination with friendlies in the area,” said 1st Lt. Kristopher Keller, assigned to Company A, 2-35th Inf. Regt. “This training offers the ability to overcome some of our weakness and evaluate what we need to work on.”

The leadership wanted to ensure the infantry squads faced the most representative aspects possible for the training.

“We are able to use a lot of what the MOUT site has to offer,” Keller said, “to include the audio system to create a stressful and realistic environment and the realistic nature of the buildings. We also



Infantrymen assigned to 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, scan and rush to their objective during squad room-clearing training at Schofield Barracks, Dec. 5.

resourced targets that will show feedback, smoke, casualties, Short-Range Training Ammunition rounds, and use of company markings.”

Squads demonstrated Battle Drill 6 proficiency under LFX conditions in order to create a lethal squad for next year’s Joint Readiness Training Center rotation at Fort Polk, Louisiana, he said.

Sgt. Michael Prisco, squad leader assigned to Co. A, 2-35th Inf. Regt., said

moving from a team leader position to a squad leader position was a new learning curve for him.

“I’m trying to get out of the bad habits I have, like being from a team leader, like going too fast,” Prisco said. “Now I’m a squad leader trying to control my team leaders – to slowing it down and moving as fast as they can engage.”

For a new team leader such as Spc. Allan Acosta, assigned to Co. A, 2-35th Inf.

Regt., this was a new leadership scenario for him during the training as well.

“The biggest thing I got out of the training is that I’m covering down to be a team leader, so it’s different,” Acosta said. “I’m taking charge of three other Soldiers rather than being told what to do. So telling other people what to do is a lot different than being told what to do.”

The introduction of the SRTA rounds during the live fire provided a unique training aspect during the scenario for the Soldiers.

“It was very different using the SRTA rounds during the mission,” Prisco said. “I was expecting for it to work similar to training paint rounds. For the live-fire scenario, they worked very well within all the rooms. However, when we were shooting at the long distances, we weren’t able to actually tell if the targeting was getting with the round or if it was actually impacting with that as well.”

“I never used them before,” Acosta said. “They’re a little different. They were kind of jamming up on me a little bit. I don’t know if it was the round itself or if my weapons weren’t 100 percent clean.”

In the end, the training was not only worthwhile for the squads, but highly enjoyable for them. too.

“It was exciting really,” Acosta said. “We love doing this kind of stuff. Clearing rooms is fun compared to doing super long running lanes. I think a lot of the guys love doing this kind of training.”





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# Better boots, lighter uniform coming

Story and photos by  
**DEVON L. SUITS**  
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Virginia — This January, some Soldiers within the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii will receive new uniforms and a new set of boots as part of Program Executive Office Soldier’s continued testing and evaluation of the improved hot-weather combat uniform and jungle combat boot.

Keeping in line with the modernization and readiness initiatives set by Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the new versions of combat uniforms and boots will allow Soldiers to better operate in hot, extremely hot and hot/wet environments.

“Today’s Soldier must be ready to execute the mission in any operational environment,” said Col. Stephen Thomas, project manager with Soldier protection and individual equipment, during a Dec. 7 media roundtable, here. “(We’re) providing a capability to Soldiers that may give them a decisive edge in that type of environment.”

Production is near completion on 65,000 uniforms and approximately 750 new boots that will be sent to 25th ID Soldiers in time for the upcoming Pacific Pathways exercise in February, according to Capt. Daniel Ferenczy, assistant product manager for environmental clothing and footwear.

In March, PEO Soldier will then collect feedback from Soldiers and use that information to modify future versions of both systems, Ferenczy added.

## ACU improvements

To make the new uniform more breathable and lightweight, Ferenczy said that excess layers and seams, which often lock in heat and moisture, have been removed. Furthermore, the new uniform can be dried in 60 minutes, compared to the 90 minutes dry time of the current uniform.

In addition, program officials have incorporated feedback and made changes to the uniform design from previous field tests.

Changes include these:

- mandarin collar eliminated,
- shoulder pockets open from top rather than sides,
- zipper closures replaced by buttons,
- breast and back trouser pockets removed,
- crotch gusseted for better fit and to prevent chafing or blow-outs, and
- knee articulated for better maneuverability.

Moving forward, program officials will continue to evaluate other fabric compositions and uniform design elements through 2018, Ferenczy said.

Depending on the feedback received during the upcoming field test, and the requirements set by Army headquarters, a newer version of the hot-weather uniform could be requested and tested by the 25th ID around the same time next year.

## Jungle combat boot 2.0

In addition to the new uniform, 25th ID Soldiers will have a chance to try out five versions of footwear that represent a “Version 2” of the jungle boot. These five variants are based on “Version 1” of the boot Soldiers have already field-tested earlier this year.

After that field testing of Version 1, Soldiers determined that they wanted a combat boot that was lighter and more flexible, and which also had less stack-height off the ground. Ferenczy said the five types of Version 2 jungle boots meet all those Soldier demands, while also remaining puncture-proof and quick-drying.

The Version 2 boots also provide increased traction in the mud.

Furthermore, he said, all the Version 2 boots are better designed to not hold in any moisture, and incorporate larger-sized drainage vents on both sides. Come January, the Version 2 boots – 150 from each of five manufacturers – will be distributed to 25th ID Soldiers to be field-tested until March. The goal is for this current evaluation of Version 2 boots, and subsequent feedback, to be combined into a final offering.



Program Executive Office Soldier officials discussed improvements to the hot weather uniform (above) and jungle combat boot (below) programs during a media roundtable event on Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Dec. 7. The 25th ID is slated to field test the new uniform and boot starting in January.



# Army to direct commission cyber officers

**DAVID VERGUN**

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soon, the first-ever U.S. Army Cyber Direct Commissioning Program (CDCP) board will meet to select up to five candidates for the first year of a five-year pilot program, said Lt. Gen. Paul M. Nakasone.

Nakasone, commander of U.S. Army Cyber Command, discussed the CDCP during a Dec. 6 media roundtable at the Pentagon. He said over 50 applications have already been received.

By early February, civilian candidates will attend a six-week direct commissioning course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, followed by a 12-week Cyber Officer Basic Leadership Course at Fort Gordon, Georgia. After graduation, they will be commissioned first lieutenants.

The reason the Army decided to go the direct commissioning route is that changes in cyberspace are occurring rapidly, so a ready-trained and talented technical expert who wants to serve his or her nation is what the Army thinks is needed at this time, Nakasone said.

All of the candidates must



Photo illustration by Peggy Frierson, Defense Media Activity  
**The Army has decided to go the direct commissioning route for its cyber program.**

have a face-to-face interview at Fort Gordon, he said. This will enable interviewers to gauge whether or not a candidate is suited for the Army and for the cyber mission.

The interviewers will be looking for someone who is a team player, since both cyber offense and defense is organized around 41 teams, Nakasone said.

Other traits include drive, dedication and commitment, he

added.

Other requirements are U.S. citizenship, a four-year degree, the ability to meet physical fitness standards, and the ability to obtain a top-secret security clearance, he said.

On the technical side, experience can include cybersecurity, software or hardware engineering and product management. The full listing of 14 skills, along with

other requirements, he said, can be found on [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com).

Maj. Gen. Patricia A. Frost, director of cyber within the Army’s G-3/5/7, said that to be accepted into the program, “it’s OK to be innovative, but not successful, as in having a patent. That’s why the person-to-person interview is such an important part of the process.”

She added that the Army wants someone with potential, drive, energy, creativity and new ideas on how the Army can gain the upper hand in the cyberspace domain.

The reason the Army isn’t growing these cyber operators from the current force is that it would take several years to attain the technical skills these candidates have, she said.

Once the new lieutenants enter the cyber force, they will be helped along by designated mentors, she added.

“The biggest incentive for these candidates is that every day you’re going to go toe-to-toe with the best hackers in the world, and you’re defending our nation,” Nakasone said. “If you want that opportunity, come and join us in the Army.”

# Voices of Ohana

Because it’s easy to overindulge during the holidays, we wondered,  
**“What are your tips for staying healthy during the holidays?”**  
By 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division



“Eat healthy, exercise twice a day, since you will have more time on leave, and increase water intake.”

**Sgt. Jose Ayala**  
G Co., 1st Bn.  
27th Inf. Regt.  
Senior mechanic



“Eat plenty of vegetables, try to not eat too many carbs and drink water to feel full.”

**Sgt. Emeryjoy DeShields**  
G Co., 1st Bn.  
27th Inf. Regt.  
Senior clerk



“Stay consistent. Maintain healthy eating habits, and if you do eat junk food, limit the portion size. It’s all about portion sizes.”

**Staff Sgt. Walter Lima**  
E Co., 65th BEB  
Section sergeant



“Watch your diet, don’t over-eat, remember proper portion sizes and try to maintain your fitness regimen.”

**Spc. Jared Wilkin**  
G Co., 1st Bn.  
27th Inf. Regt.  
Mechanic



“You have to work out and work out hard. Remember, you have a PT test eventually.”

**Spc. Yang Zhang**  
D Co., 1st Bn.  
21st Inf. Regt.  
Dismount



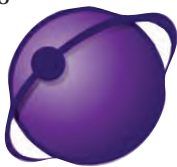
# AtHoc alerts Army Hawaii community of threats

**KAREN A. IWAMOTO**  
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Safety and preparedness are central to mission readiness, and Army Hawaii is reminding the community of a simple way to increase both.

The AtHoc Mass Warning Emergency Notification System alerts users to hazards and emergencies on and surrounding U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii installations. These may include warnings about hurricanes and tsunamis, electrical outages, road closures and bomb threats, among other things.

“It allows people to receive emergency information to protect themselves and their families,” said Francis Smith, emergency management officer for USAG-HI’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. “This is critical information that is put out within minutes of an incident.”



Enrollment is currently below Army Hawaii leaders’ goal of 90 percent, which they want to meet within the next few months.

By helping Soldiers, family members and civilian employees avoid potentially dangerous situations, the alerts could save lives, Smith said. This, in turn, supports the Army’s mission by keeping the force safe and ready to fight.

Although there are many ways for the community to receive emergency information – television and radio broadcasts, NOAA weather radios, outdoor sirens and other text-message-like alert systems, AtHoc is specific to the Army community. And unlike other programs, AtHoc also has the ability to help commanders plan for and improve their preparedness and response capabilities.

**How to enroll**

Signing up for AtHoc takes only a few minutes, Smith said, and Army Hawaii

Soldiers, civilian employees and contractors who have Common Access Cards (CACs) may do so by logging on to their work computers and clicking on the purple AtHoc icon.

From there, they may follow a series of steps to have notifications sent to their home landlines and cellphones, in addition to popup alerts on their computers.

Under the current AtHoc system, they may also opt to sign up one non-CAC-holding family member for the alerts. Smith said an option to add more family members is in the works.

When users change locations, they should remember to update their information in the AtHoc system.

The AtHoc system is also available as an app for iOS and Android smartphones. When downloading the app, make sure you are selecting the correct installation – USAG-Hawaii. Users must have an active email set up in the USAG-HI AtHoc Mass Warning and Notification system before downloading and installing the app.

**Added security**

In addition to the AtHoc notifications, USAG-HI also has “Giant Voice” loudspeakers that broadcast warnings at its installations. Besides voice broadcasts, these loudspeakers also broadcast emergency siren alerts, including emergency siren alert tests by the State of Hawaii on the first of each month.

There are “Giant Voice” loudspeakers on Schofield Barracks, on Wheeler Army Airfield, on Fort Shafer and at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island. However, the broadcasts do not reach all areas of the installations.

AtHoc provides an additional way to ensure the community receives the alerts it needs to remain safe and ready.

**Questions**  
If you have any questions about enrolling in the AtHoc system, contact your unit’s AtHoc end user manager.

## AtHoc Notifier via App

Required: Before you download and install, you must have an active email set up in the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Mass Warning and Notification system.

STEP 1

DOWNLOAD

STEP 2

ENTER EMAIL

STEP 3

VERIFY EMAIL

STEP 4

ENTER ORG CODE

Courtesy of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

- STEP 1. Search for and download the AtHoc Notifier app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.
- STEP 2. When the download is complete, open application and enter your active email address associated with your U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii MWN System account when prompted.
- STEP 3. AtHoc Notifier will send a verification email to confirm your address. From the email, click [Verify Now >>](#)
- STEP 4. Return to the application on your mobile device and add the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii MWN organization code as prompted. You have completed the installation.

## AtHoc Notifier via Desktop

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

STEP 4

STEP 5

STEP 6

- Follow these steps to manage how AtHoc contacts you.
- STEP 1. Click the Show Hidden Icons button in the system tray near the clock to expand the hidden icons. Locate the purple globe.
- STEP 2. Right click the purple globe and select Update My Info.
- STEP 3. The Organizational Hierarchy is used to target specific groups of users based on unit, directorate or tenant organization. Click the / symbol to select your unit, directorate or tenant organization.
- STEP 4. The Select the Organizational Position window will open displaying the USAG Hawaii organizational structure. Clicking the > symbol will expose additional levels of organizational structure. Find and select the radio button for your organization.
- STEP 5. The window will close and you will see the selected organization listed next to USAG Hawaii.
- STEP 6. Enter a phone number in the Phone-Work, Phone-Home, Phone-Mobile, and text Messaging device fields. Enter a valid email address in the email-Work and Email-Home device fields. Do the same for the Family Member Contact section.



# Army takes second straight victory over Navy

**JOE LACDAN**  
Army News Service

PHILADELPHIA — Hundreds of West Point cadets poured out from the stands onto a snow-covered Lincoln Financial Field, here, following a 14-13 triumph over Navy.

The Army celebrated what was perhaps a turning point in the storied rivalry between the two schools.

For West Point's Class of 2018, being a part of the football tradition that shifted the rivalry in Army's favor after losing 14 straight to the Midshipmen made the victory sweeter, said Cadet Vincent Hale.

*(Get the full story at [https://www.army.mil/article/197976/strong\\_bond\\_among\\_players\\_fellow\\_cadets\\_propels\\_army\\_to\\_second\\_straight\\_victory\\_over\\_navy](https://www.army.mil/article/197976/strong_bond_among_players_fellow_cadets_propels_army_to_second_straight_victory_over_navy).)*

DOD photo by EJ Hersom

**Right — Army running back John Trainor reaches for the goal line on the final scoring drive of the 118th Army-Navy Game in Philadelphia, Dec. 9. Trainor was stopped short of the goal line. However, quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw scored the winning touchdown on a QB sneak the next play to give Army the 14-13 triumph.**



DOD photo by EJ Hersom

**Black Knight football players charge onto the field for the 118th Army-Navy Game in Philadelphia.**



Photo by Joe Lacdan, Army News Service

**Right — Gen. Mark Milley, Army chief of staff, yells, “Go Army! Beat Navy!” to the 4,000 cadets in attendance at the annual Army-Navy game. Milley also honored seven Soldiers who participated in the hurricane relief efforts in Houston and Puerto Rico on Saturday.**

NEWS-BRIEFS

Send announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com

**25 / Monday**

**Aloha Christmas Breakfast** — Single Soldiers, geographic bachelors and families are invited to enjoy a hot, homemade breakfast – home away from home – from 9 to 11 a.m. at Wheeler Chapel. Contact Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff Herden for volunteer opportunities, such as casserole donations or cookies. Call 307-460-0285.

**January**

**16 / Tuesday**

**Dental Clinic** — According to Dental Health Activity-Hawaii, the Tripler Dental Clinic is moving to Bldg. 339 on Montgomery Road, Fort Shafter.

Effective Jan. 16, all dental care will be located at the new

Shafter dental clinic; however, the OMFS clinic will remain at Tripler.

Directions to new clinic: Travel south on Pierce Road, past the PX on Fort Shafter. Turn right on Montgomery Drive. The clinic and parking lot will be on the left.

**Ongoing**

**Cellphones** — A new City and County of Honolulu ordinance makes it illegal to look at a cellphone or other electronic device while crossing a street or highway on Oahu. Read about this new law at [www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/10/26/cellphone-safety-bill-now-in-effect/](http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/10/26/cellphone-safety-bill-now-in-effect/).

**Short Survey** — Health Promotion needs your help. U.S. Army Hawaii personnel are asked to complete a short survey – less than 10 minutes – about quality of life, health, safety and satisfaction here in Hawaii.

For more information,

please visit <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se.ashx?s=251137453825C6F3>. Call Linda Bass at 655-4772 for more details.

**CFC** — DOD service members and employees can support their favorite charities by participating in the 2017 Combined Federal Campaign.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign with 36 CFC zones located everywhere federal employees work.

Contribute online or through your unit representative. Visit [https://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/1017\\_cfc/source/GovDelivery/](https://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/1017_cfc/source/GovDelivery/).

**Battlefield 2 Ballroom** — This organization connects veterans and ballroom dancing in the fight to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, and traumatic brain injury, or TBI. Find out more details. Visit <http://battlefield2ballroom.org>.

**Blended Retirement** — Starting Jan. 1, 2018, active duty service members with fewer than 12 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017.

Reserve component service members with less than 4,320 points will have until Dec. 31, 2018, to decide to remain in the current system or opt into the Blended Retirement System.

Mandatory training is available via Joint Knowledge Online at <http://jko.jten.mil/courses/BRS/.html> and Military One Source at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/web/mos/-/retirement-planning-the-essentials> to assist eligible Soldiers with the decision to either opt-in or continue with a legacy retirement system.

It is mandatory for all Soldiers to complete training no later than Dec. 31, 2017. The training includes videos, glossaries and example scenarios that explain the new retirement benefits and provide comparisons of the current and new systems.

**Vehicle Registration** — Registering a vehicle? Note, the City and County of Honolulu has made changes to forms that allow service members to register their vehicles in Hawaii tax free. The changes were made due to significant issues with abandoned vehicles. They allow the city and county to determine the owner's active duty and/or deployment status.

Make sure you are turning in the correct non-residency form, which went into effect Aug. 1, when you register. Unit S-1s can pick up the new forms at the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Forms Center. Call 656-0334 for questions about form pickup.

**Identity Theft** — Millions of Americans were impacted by recent data breaches. Whether or not your personal information was stolen, there are steps to protect yourself and your credit.

Read how you can be more sharp and savvy. Visit <https://www.consumerfinance.gov>.

Traffic & Outages

Advisories from Army and Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) sources. Provides traffic, construction and outage information.

*(Note: Times and locations of outages are a best guess. Field conditions may extend the locations and time needed.)*

**16 / Saturday**

**Outage** — Wheeler Army Airfield and Wiliwili Housing Area will experience an electrical outage from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

The outage is required to support a 25th Combat Aviation Brigade project and provide a back up feed for housing.

## Ongoing

**Wright Avenue** — Partial road closures will be in effect at Wright Avenue on Wheeler Army Airfield between Elleman and Eastman roads and Langley Loop and Eastman roads for curb inlet repairs. The partial lane closures run through Feb. 2, 2018, from

7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**Airdrome Road** — David Boland, Inc. will be conducting one-lane road closures through Dec. 31 from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, along Airdrome road from the new fueling facility to the flight simulator. Boland crews will be performing asphalt overpaying, installing a new by pass road for fuel offload facilities and striping of new pavements.

**Ganhan Road Closure** — This road on Wheeler Army Airfield adjacent to Bldg. 107 will be closed at the Wright Avenue entrance throughout construction, through Dec. 18.





Retirees and their families join Maj. Gen. Bryan Suntheimer, USARPAC deputy commanding general, National Guard (center, left), and Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Jones, USARPAC senior enlisted adviser (center, right) for a photo during USARPAC’s Celebration of Service ceremony, Dec. 6, at Fort Shafter.

# U.S. Army-Pacific honors its retiring Soldiers

Story and photos by  
**STAFF SGT. JUSTIN SILVERS**  
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — U.S. Army-Pacific Soldiers, family and friends came together at historic Palm Circle, here, to pay homage to five Soldiers during a Celebration of Service ceremony, Dec. 6.

Maj. Gen. Bryan Suntheimer, USARPAC deputy commanding general National Guard, was the host of the ceremony, and thanked the Soldiers for their combined 110 years of dedication to the nation.

“I consider it one of my highest honors to thank and celebrate the service of (these) five exceptional leaders,” said Suntheimer. “Thank you for joining me in the celebration of these great Americans. They have done what few do – sacrificing their time and love to an organization that seeks to make our world better. May God bless each of you in the next chapter

of your lives.”

Suntheimer highlighted the careers of the five Soldiers over the course of the ceremony, noting their distinguished accomplishments, deployments, awards and their future ambitions.

USARPAC’s Celebration of Service ceremony recognizes Soldiers for exemplary service to USARPAC and the nation as they get ready to transition into new careers. During the ceremony, Soldiers received awards and were presented with the U.S. Flag in honor of their service to the nation.

- Retirees**
  - Maj. Maria Doucettperry
  - Capt. LaTrisha Granston
  - Capt. Adam Holloway
  - Sgt. 1st Class Bret Traweek
  - Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Warhawk



Capt. Adam Holloway (center) receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Maj. Gen. Bryan Suntheimer, USARPAC deputy commanding general, National Guard, while his wife, Elizabeth, watches during USARPAC’s Celebration of Service ceremony, Dec. 6, at Fort Shafter.

# OHDACA-funded kindergartens open in Vietnam

Story and photos by  
**SGT. 1ST CLASS COREY RAY**  
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

LIEN THUY, Vietnam — Representatives from the U.S. Army-Pacific, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam were met by throngs of dancing children during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at a new U.S.-funded kindergarten, here, Dec. 7.

Lien Thuy is a commune located in the North Central Coast region of Vietnam and one of the poorest provinces in the country. The new 10-room kindergarten can support the education of 320 children and doubles as a storm shelter, as the region is prone to torrential rains and flooding.

Brig. Gen. Douglas Anderson, deputy commander, Army Reserve, USARPAC and commander of the 9th Mission Support Command, spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“Since 2009, the U.S. government, through the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) program, has partnered with the Vietnamese government and communities to construct schools, clinics, centers and bridges in many towns in Vietnam. And the Lien Thuy kindergarten is the 20th school we’ve built in Vietnam under our partnership program,” he said.

According to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency’s website, OHDACA-funded activities are intended to directly address humanitarian needs, augment Combatant Commander (CCDR) capabilities to respond to humanitarian

crises, help generate long-term positive perceptions and goodwill for the Department of Defense, and promote cooperation with foreign military and civilian counterparts.

Concurrently, OHDACA-funded activities provide direct benefits to the Hanoi government by improving the basic living conditions of the civilian populace in a country susceptible to extremism, enhancing the legitimacy of the Hanoi government by improving or building its capacity to provide essential services (such as health care or education) to its populace, and promoting stability in the Hanoi government or region.

This was the second OHDACA-funded kindergarten opened in the last three days. The other was opened in the Quang Vinh Commune, Hue Province, Dec. 5. Each project cost approximately \$500,000 and was built in under a year.

The projects were requested by Vietnam, developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, sponsored and funded by U.S. Pacific Command and coordinated with the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam.

“This close cooperation between Vietnam and the U.S. reflects the spirit of our partnership between the two countries,” said Anderson.

**Right — Locals take a tour of a new U.S.-funded kindergarten in Lien Thuy, Vietnam, Dec. 7. The 10-room kindergarten can support the education of 320 children and doubles as a storm shelter. USARPAC has built 20 schools in Vietnam since 2009 using OHDACA and Civic Aid funds.**



Local children prepare for their dance routine during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a U.S.-funded kindergarten, Dec. 7, in Lien Thuy, Vietnam.





December 15, 2017



# Be safe this holiday season

Top 10 holiday travel OPSEC tips  
From: Information Operations  
25th Infantry Division

## Common holiday travel scams revealed

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Now is the perfect time to refresh your memory about operational security. Here are 10 tips you should follow this holiday season.

**1- Be wary of "shoulder surfers" and cell-phone cameras when using credit/debit cards.** Shield your PIN numbers from view when entering them at the ATM or checkout counter.

**2- When paying for items, be mindful not to display large amounts of cash to onlookers.** If you're carrying a large amount of cash, keep a portion of the money separate from your wallet in case you get pickpocketed or lose your wallet.

**3- If you bought so many items that you need to drop some off at the car** before continuing to shop, make sure you place the items in the trunk and out of sight. It is also a good idea to move your vehicle to another parking spot, away from any onlookers who may have observed you unload your bags.

**4- Boxes from expensive gifts** such as computers, televisions or game consoles left curbside for trash collection provide potential burglars with good indicators as to what high value items are located in the household. Break down the boxes, throw them in a bag and put them out just before trash collection time.

**5- Keep holiday gifts and purchases out of sight**, especially when they can be seen from outside of your house. It is preferable to keep presents stored in a closet or other area that is out of sight to others.

**6- Consider the gift of a paper shredder** in the home this holiday season – shredding documents containing your personal, private or financial information prior to disposing of them is a great way to protect yourself from identity theft.

**7- Be cautious of Internet-connected toys and devices around the home.** Toys equipped with microphones may record and collect conversations within earshot of the device. The collection of a child's personal information while initiating accounts (name, date of birth, pictures, address) combined with a toy's ability to connect to the Internet or other devices creates opportunities for child identity fraud.

**8- If you are out shopping or at a holiday party, be careful about using location-based social media** sites and applications. Although these tools may help you let family and friends know where you are, they could also be informing strangers and criminals of your location or the fact that your home may be empty.

**9- Avoid posting information about your holiday travel plans.** Posting travel plans or vacation photos may inadvertently make your home a target for criminals. Wait until you return home to share stories and photos from your holiday travels.

**10- Avoid "talking shop" at holiday parties and social gatherings.** Be wary of attempts to elicit information about training, equipment or other work-related topics from individuals who do not have a need to know.

### MILITARY ONESOURCE

News Release

The holiday travel season is here. You're probably thinking of what gifts to get or what travel plans to make. With all of this on your mind, you may be less focused and let your guard down.

Scammers know this and often increase their efforts to target people at this time of year.

Generally, if you receive an unsolicited email, telephone call or mail for a discounted holiday travel package or airfare that sounds too good to be true, it's probably a scam.

### Unsolicited correspondence

If you are offered a travel deal by email, it's very likely a scam as many of the bulk email travel deals or free vacations are. If you receive the deal by phone, ask the telemarketer for the company's name, address and local telephone number. If they refuse to provide this information, it's likely not a legitimate offer. If they do provide this information, check the track record of the company and call them back if they are a reputable company and you're interested in the deal.

### "Fine print"

Another form of misrepresentation scammers use is in the "fine print." In some travel scams, one part of your vacation package, like the airfare, can be free or very cheap, but you're then required to stay at a specific hotel that turns out to be very expensive.

Make sure that "fine print" exists and that it is clear. Any reputable travel company should have a phone number, physical address and terms and conditions on their website, usually on the contact page. These terms and conditions should provide you with information like refund or cancellation policies.

Scammers are less likely to post these policies, or they'll provide them in a suspicious manner, like only through a faxed request or only if you provide information. Any time you're required to provide your personal information to receive information on a deal, there's a good chance that it's a scam.

### Pressure

Any time someone says they need your commitment to buy immediately or that the offer won't be available much longer, this should send up a red flag.

### Contests

Public contests have rules and regulations, usually requiring that you enter to win. If you never entered a contest, you didn't win. If you didn't enter and you receive a call saying that you won, it's probably a scam. But if you're not sure whether you entered the contest, ask the agent for more details on the contest. A reputable contest will provide more information.

Another version of this scam is to tell you that you won the vacation package, but that the caller needs your credit card number to verify and settle the arrangements. You should never have to pay for a prize.

### Who to trust

So what can you do to make sure you're not the victim of a travel scam? Well first, for service members, a good and safe option is Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and its Leisure Travel Office. Either can tell you about different vacation options as well as military discounts; call 655-9971 or 438-1985.

### If you've been scammed

And, if you think you've been ripped off by one of these travel scams, you should file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov).

You can also turn to Military OneSource for help. This no-cost 24-hour service is available to all active duty, National Guard and Reserve members (regardless of activation status) and their families.

Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues. Call 800-342-9647 or go to [www.MilitaryOneSource.mil](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.mil) to learn more.

(Note: This article is an abridged transcript of a Military OneSource podcast. Listen to the full podcast at [www.militaryonesource.mil/-/how-to-avoid-holiday-travel-sca-1](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/-/how-to-avoid-holiday-travel-sca-1).)

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Operational security must be practiced at all times, especially when you're travelling. Review these tips before you head off to vacation.

**1- Refrain from using military duffel bags** or bags with government patches or logos.

**2- Don't use rank or title** to reserve airline tickets or hotel rooms.

**3- Keep a low profile** with regard to both attire and demeanor.

**4- Be cautious** about giving out information regarding family travel plans to those who don't have a "need to know."

**5- Turn off geo-locate services** on your Internet-connected devices and avoid "checking in" at restaurants and hotels.

**6- Hold off on posting photos and updates** from your trip to social media until after your trip is complete.

**7- Leave your home with a "lived in" look.** Consider using timers for lights and television.

Have a neighbor park a vehicle in your driveway and move it on a regular basis so the house appears occupied.

**8- Put delivery holds on newspapers and mail.** As a backup, have a trusted neighbor check for any unanticipated holiday deliveries.

**9- Don't hide a key.** Experienced criminals know how to spot the fake rocks, magnetic key holders, and even fake dog poop used to hide the keys to your home.

**10- Avoid leaving the garbage can by the road during your absence.** Leave the garbage can in its normal location during your trip, or have a trusted neighbor put out the trash and return the can after collection.





## Briefs

### 15 / Friday

#### “Star Wars” 3D Movie Night

— A BOSS event. Meet at Olino by Consolidated Kapolei. Cost is \$15 per person, 7 p.m.

The BOSS Office is located at 1470 Foote St., Bldg. 589, SB. Call 655-5698 or 352-223-6370.

### 16 / Saturday

#### BOSS Camping at Bellows

— Register at SB Tropics Recreation Center front desk. BOSS Office is located at 1470 Foote St., Bldg. 589. Call 655-5698 or 352-223-6370

### 19 / Tuesday

#### FS Open Play Pick-Up Basketball

— Play 5-on-5 full court basketball. Walk-in and sign up on the same day and time at 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays, Dec. 19, 21, 26 & 28, or at FS PFC, 170 Chapplear Road, Bldg. 665. Call 438-1152.

### 20 / Wednesday

#### Santa Visit

— A visit from Santa will bring Christmas joy to you and your little ones. Come visit with Santa and take pictures with the jolly old elf from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the FS Library, 181 Chapplear Road, Bldg. 650. Call 438-9521.

### 23 / Saturday

#### White Plains Beach BBQ, Surfing & Beach Day

— Board rental is \$5 an hour, per person, for noon event. Call or sign-up at SB Tropics.

### 27 / Wednesday

#### Christmas Gift Exchange

— Bring a gift for \$50 or less. Plus enjoy BOSS giveaways. Held at SB Tropics Recreation Center on Dec. 27 at 1 p.m.

Send announcements a week prior to publication to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

### 15 / Friday

#### The Nutcracker (Ballet Hawaii)

— Four performances, Friday-Sunday, Blaisdell Concert Hall. Celebrate the holidays with Ballet Hawaii’s Nutcracker presented with a unique Hawaiian historical theme. Enjoy Tchaikovsky’s classic ballet reinterpreted and set in the 1858 Kingdom of Hawaii.

Tickets range from \$39-\$120. Tickets available by phone at 800-745-3000 or at the Blaisdell Box Office (open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.) or online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

### The Nutcracker (Hawaii State Ballet)

— Five performances, Friday-Sunday, Mamiya Theatre at St. Louis School, 3142 Waialae Ave. This show, in its 31st year of production, features an all-local cast from the Hawaii State Ballet.

Tickets range from \$20-\$36, and there are discounts available for children, senior citizens, military personnel and groups. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For tickets and more details, visit [www.hawaiistateballet.com/nutcracker](http://www.hawaiistateballet.com/nutcracker).

### Pa‘akai Marketplace

— Local artists, crafters and cultural practitioners will have their wares for sale just in time for holiday shopping at this craft fair, which is a collaboration between SALT at Our Kakaako and the PA’I Foundation.

Begins at 5 p.m., runs on Friday and Saturday. This is a

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

### Celebrate the Holiday Season with Family and MWR

December 16  
Aliamanu Military Reservation  
Community Center  
9AM - 2PM

**Free Activities:**

- Pictures with Santa
- Games • Crafts
- Live Bands
- DJ • Dancing
- Hali Hali Rules

**Cash Only Activities:**

- Arts & Crafts: Paint and Take Holiday Ornaments
- Food Booths
- Sassy Candy

**Breakfast with Santa**

at AMR Gym 8AM

Tickets are required.  
Adults \$15 Children (9-11): \$9  
Children 4 years and under, FREE with a paid adult.  
Purchase your tickets today at any Army LTR location.  
Leisure Travel Service  
438-1985 or 655-9971

For more information: 655-0113

USAA verizon

Commercial Sponsorship does not constitute DoD, Army or Federal Government endorsement.

**HiMWR.com**

Photo courtesy of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

**ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — Winter Wonderland is Saturday at the AMR Community Center. Breakfast with Santa begins at 8 a.m. (Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$9 for keiki 5-11 years old and free for keiki 4 years and younger. Call Leisure Travel Services at 438-1985 or 655-9971.) Free snow zone, games and rides continue from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Food booths and other cash-only activities will also be available. Call 655-9971.**

## January

### 5 / Friday

#### Intramural Basketball

**Registration** — Jan. 5, 2018, is the registration deadline to play in the 2018 Army Hawaii Intramural Men’s and Women’s Basketball Company Level League. Games will be played at Martinez PFC and FS PFC.

Open to company, battery, troop detachment level active duty Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard units within the geographical limits of Hawaii (one team only).

Season runs Jan. 22-March 30, 2018. Call 655-9650/9914.

#### Intramural Battalion Level Soccer

— Registration deadline is Jan. 5, 2018, to play in the 2018 Army Hawaii Intramural Men’s and Women’s Battalion Level Soccer League. Games will be played at Stoneman Athletic Complex, FS Takata Field and TAMC Center Ball Field.

Open to Army active duty, USAR and Army National Guard battalions within the geographical limits of Hawaii (one team only). Season runs from Jan. 22-March 23, 2018. Call 655-9650/9914.

## CELEBRATE WITH MUSIC

The 25th Infantry Division Band Presents

# HOLIDAY Concert

**KA MAKANA ALI’I SHOPPING CENTER**  
December 17th, 2017 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm

**MILILANI TOWN CENTER**  
December 19th, 2017 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Follow us at [www.ArmyMusicHawaii.com](http://www.ArmyMusicHawaii.com)

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Courtesy photo

**Join the 25th Infantry Division Band at Ka Makana Ali’i Shopping Center, Dec. 17, from noon to 1 p.m., and at Mililani Town Center, Dec. 19, from 6 to 7 p.m.**

pet-friendly event located at SALT at Our Kakaako. Parking available at the building, access from Keawe Street. Visit [www.saltkakaako.com](http://www.saltkakaako.com).

### 16 / Saturday

#### SB Kolekole Hiking Trail

— The Hiking trail will be open to DOD ID cardholders and their guests, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 16-17, from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call 655-1434 if you have problems with gate access.

### Santa 5K Fun Run

— This fun, family friendly, non-timed race features a scenic run

## Ongoing

### 9 Ball Pool Tournament at Tropics

— Join us every Thursday at 6 p.m. for a 9-ball single elimination and sudden death tournament at SB Tropics. Call 655-5698.

### Xbox Challenge NBA 2K17

— Every Wednesday at 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 655-5698.

### Texas Hold’em Poker

— Play Texas Hold’em every Thursday at SB Tropics at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Cost is \$25. MWR Bucks to 1st place. Awarded the last Thursday of each month. Call 655-5698.

### Sand Volleyball and Dodgeball

— Every Tuesday at SB Tropics from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 655-5698.

### Party Pong Challenge

— Every Saturday at SB Tropics at 8 p.m. Call 655-5698.

### Movie Event

— Weekly movie event held on Wednesdays at SB Sgt. Yano Library from 3-5 p.m. All movies will be PG. Titles are available upon request. Call 655-8002.

### Preschool Story Time

— Attend every Tuesday for stories, songs, dancing and a craft at 10 a.m. at FS Library. Call 438-9521.

### Resiliency through Art (for Wounded Warriors)

— This program focuses on self-expression through art in a small group setting at the SB Arts & Crafts Center every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Call 655-4202, as registration is required.

### Quilting and Sewing

— Every Tuesday and Sunday, attend quilting and sewing from 5-8 p.m. or 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for \$25 (first class) or \$6 (each additional class) at the SB Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg. 572. Ages 17 and up recommended; for younger patrons, call 655-4202.

a rope swing and monkey bars. Runners will receive a finisher’s medal, a cold Kona Brewing Company beer and a free concert. The challenge is open to anyone age 14 (will need a parent/guardian signature if under 18) and older and of all fitness levels. Enter as individuals or join a team. For more details on race-day entries, visit [makahikichallenge.com](http://makahikichallenge.com).

### SALT Bar Crawl

— Discover new brews while supporting a good cause at the SALT Bar Crawl, 5-10 p.m., at SALT at Our Kakaako. Participants include Bevy Bar, Moku Kitchen, Pitch Sports Bar and Village Bottle Shop & Tasting Room. Helping Hands Hawaii will be on hand to accept donations of new, unopened household goods. Visit [www.saltkakaako.com](http://www.saltkakaako.com).

### Wreaths Across America-Punchbowl

— At 8-11 a.m. at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission is to “Remember, Honor and Teach,” carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies.

Help is needed with donations (wreaths cost \$15 to put on a marker in Punchbowl) and volunteers. On Dec. 16, help lay out wreaths. This event is open to the public. Visit <https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=15672>, or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wreaths-across-america-punchbowl-tickets-36206933914?aff=efbevent>.

### 17 / Sunday

#### Jingle Rock Run

— The fourth annual Jingle Rock Run is from 3- 9 p.m., from the Hawaii State Capitol on South Beretania Street. Visit [www.jinglerock-run.com](http://www.jinglerock-run.com).

Additional religious services, children’s programs, educational services and contact information can be found at <https://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/rso/USARHAW%20Chapel%20Services.pdf>.

AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation Chapel  
FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel  
HMR: Helemano Chapel  
MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor  
SC: Soldiers Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel  
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

### Buddhist Services

- First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD
- Last Wednesday, 6 p.m. at MPC

### Catholic Mass

- Monday-Wednesday, 11:45 a.m. at Soldiers’ Chapel
- Thursday, 11:45 a.m. at AMR
- Wednesday, 5 p.m. at MPC
- Saturday, 5 p.m. at TAMC
- Sunday services: -8:30 a.m. at AMR -10:30 a.m. at MPC -11 a.m. at TAMC

### Gospel Worship

- Sunday, noon at MPC
- Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

### Islamic

- Friday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR (Call 477-7647)

### Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)

- Friday, 7:30 p.m. at PH (Call 473-3971)

### Protestant Worship

- Sunday Services -9 a.m. at MPC (Contemporary) -9 a.m. at FD -9 a.m. at TAMC -10 a.m. at HMR (Contemporary) -10:30 a.m. at AMR (Contemporary) -11 a.m. at WAAF (Cont.)

## This Week at the MOVIES

### Sgt. Smith Theater

#### Tyler Perry’s Boo 2: A Madea Halloween (PG-13)

Friday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.

### The Star (PG)

Saturday, Dec. 16, 4 p.m.

### Daddy’s Home 2 (R)

Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

### Justice League (PG-13)

Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m.

Closed Monday through Thursday.

Calendar abbreviations		
8th TSC: 8th Theater Sustainment Command	ASYMCA: Armed Services YMCA	and Recreation
25th ID: 25th Infantry Division	BCT: Brigade Combat Team	FRG: Family Readiness Group
ACS: Army Community Service	CDC: Child Development Center	FS: Fort Shafter
AFAP: Army Family Action Plan	CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services	HMR: Helemano Military Reservation
AFTB: Army Family Team Building	EFMP: Exceptional Family Member Program	IPC: Island Palm Communities
AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation	FCC: Family Child Care	PFC: Physical Fitness Center
	FMWR: Family and Morale, Welfare	SAC: School Age Center
		SB: Schofield Barracks



# Hope, cheer and ... Steal! Steal! Steal!

During this season of giving, people everywhere are transformed. Generosity and compassion well up in us all. However, in the midst of all this merriment, otherwise charitable people can become so caught up in materialistic desires that they have thoughts of theft, revenge – and even murder.

What, pray tell, could arouse criminal tendencies during the holidays? The answer is simple: group gift exchanges.

Known as “Yankee Swaps,” “White Elephant Exchanges” or “Dirty Santas,” this apparently innocent holiday game rouses merciless thievery and selfish materialism in even the most virtuous of participants.

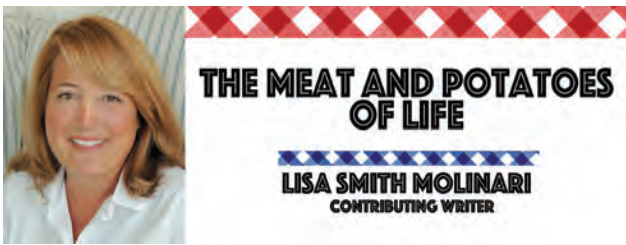
Case in point, my last military wives’ Bunco group held an ornament exchange every December. The members carefully shopped beforehand, picking out items that were unique, handmade or artistic to contribute to the pool of gifts.

One year, the class clown in me couldn’t resist when I saw glass-blown German ornaments delicately shaped into acorns and walnuts. I bought one of each, envisioning the hysterical laughter that would erupt when, as the recipient opened my package, I would blurt out a joke of questionable taste involving the word “nuts.”

We arrived at the hostess’ home at the designated hour and placed our tiny packages under her sparkling tree. Wine glasses filled, chitchat ensued and we were all enjoying the festive atmosphere.

A while later, we were filling up on hot dip and red and green M&Ms, when the hostess called us into the living room to start the ornament exchange. Light laughter trailed into the room as we plopped onto couches and chairs. We had no idea of the carnage about to befall our unsuspecting group.

After drawing numbers, the game began. The first two women picked from the wrapped gifts under the tree. One by one, they gently unraveled tissue paper from around their chosen ornaments. Eyes darted around the room and brains calculated. Just seconds before, we were more interested in the cranberry cream cheese spread, but now that merchandise was involved, we began



to strategize.

Not wanting to cause any drama, I also selected a wrapped ornament from under the tree when it was my turn. This might have continued, turn after turn, until all the packages were opened and accounted for, but someone suddenly cried, “Steal!” and mouths began to water.

“Yeah, it’s no fun if we just pick the wrapped gifts, you’ve got to steal!” another added, wiping the spittle from her chin.

A chant ensued, “Steal! Steal! Steal!” as the next woman rose from her seat.

A tiny grin could be seen on her face as she lunged toward her friend’s lap, containing an already-opened wooden ornament, seizing it away. We erupted in hoots and applause, and the living room transformed into a Roman coliseum.

Seething with vengeance, the victim of the theft plotted her retribution. The scene quickly turned from one of merriment to mayhem, as my fellow military spouses became an unruly mob. The women ruthlessly snatched ornaments one by one, while our host tried to maintain order.



An innocent “Yankee Swap” can become a competitive sport when participants lose sight of the reason for the season.

“Now, remember ladies, the gift is DEAD after it’s stolen three times.”

The mere mention of “death” only seemed to ignite more savagery.

When one woman stole the wooden

ornament for the third time, the group shouted, “It’s DEAD, it’s DEAD!” and I thought I heard gnashing of teeth as if she was carrying a bloody carcass back to the den.

With all the stolen ornaments dead, the last participant had no choice; she had to pick the lone gift left under the tree. It was the box of ornaments I had brought, and as she revealed them, I weakly offered my preplanned inappropriate nut joke. The woman, still wounded from battle, could only force a bogus chuckle.

As we all said goodnight, I realized that we had just waged an epic war over meaningless trinkets that could be bought for less than \$10 at any local store. The shameless displays of latent aggression and irreparably hurt feelings could have all been easily avoided.

But perhaps humans who wouldn’t dream of committing theft and murder simply can’t resist the thrilling temptation of crime in the midst of delicious homebaked cookies and sparkling twinkle lights?

(See more of Molinari at [www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com).)

# Free photos with Santa at Mighty Mo

BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL  
News Release

PEARL HARBOR — Santa is coming to town, and he’s making an early visit to the Battleship Missouri Memorial to take photos with all the good girls and boys.

The crew of the Mighty Mo will be decking out its pier to welcome jolly old Saint Nick, even building a special sleigh resembling the bow of the USS Missouri. Guests are invited to take photos with Santa using their own camera.

In addition, there will be ornament-decorating stations and savory seasonal treats made by Santa’s helpers. Hot refreshments will be available for purchase along with collectible stocking stuffers at the Battleship.

Those wishing to explore the majestic Mighty Mo may purchase an admission ticket for entry onto the ship. The Battleship Missouri Memorial will be open for tours during its regularly scheduled hours on Dec. 22, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will be closed on Christmas Day.



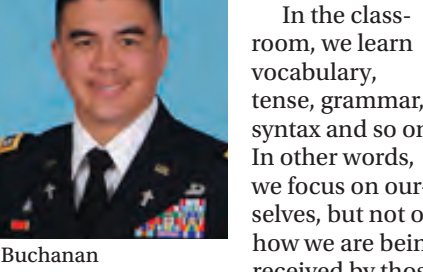
**St. Nick Event**  
**When:** 8 a.m. to noon, Friday, Dec. 22.  
**Where:** Battleship Missouri Memorial–Center Pier, Pearl Harbor/Ford Island.  
**Cost:** Photos with Santa are free to the public. Admission to the Battleship Missouri Memorial is not required, but may be purchased at [USSMissouri.org](http://USSMissouri.org).  
**Access:** Individuals without base access must enter through the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and use the complimentary Battleship Missouri Memorial shuttle.

# Effective leaders know how to be effective communicators

CHAPLAIN  
STEPHEN BUCHANAN  
500th Military Intelligence Brigade

In the Army and in the private sector, the best leaders are also effective communicators. Please note that I did not say great talkers, but communicators.

The keys to becoming an effective communicator cannot be taught solely in the classroom or in Army Regulation 25-50.



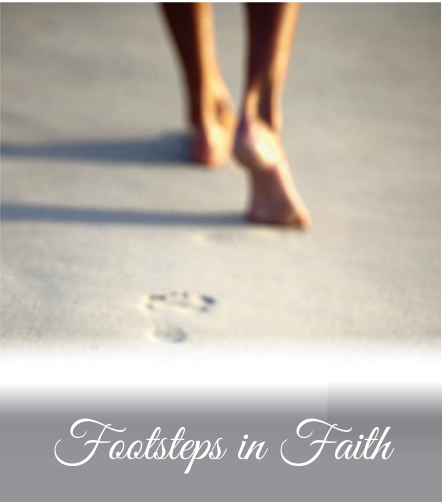
In the classroom, we learn vocabulary, tense, grammar, syntax and so on. In other words, we focus on ourselves, but not on how we are being received by those around us. Effective leaders share a few communication traits that are focused on those they serve or lead.

A skill that separates the great communicators from the mediocre is a keen awareness of people and surroundings.

Two leaders who possess that skill are retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal and retired Adm. William McRaven. Both served in the Special Operations Command and led service members to accomplish significant feats. Both had great ideas that shifted the course of their respective organizations – McChrystal at Joint Special Operations Command and McRaven at U.S. Special Operations Command.

The shifts in culture and direction they achieved started with ideas they communicated with emotion and passion. This was turned into action when their staffs understood and took ownership of the mission.

Leaders at all levels, from the senior general officer to the young sergeant, spend a majority of their time in interpersonal communication. When this communication is executed poorly,



problems arise. Effective communication is a must for mission success and developing those skills over time is a must to ensure a strong team.

The No. 1 thing great communicators have in common is that they possess a heightened sense of situational and

contextual awareness. The best communicators are also the best listeners. The best leaders are also the best followers. The greatest communicators develop the ability to read a person or a group by sensing their moods, dynamics, attitudes, values and concerns. In addition to reading their environment, effective communicators adapt their messages to that environment without missing a beat. Effective communication has little to do with the messenger and everything to do with meeting the needs and expectations of those with whom you are communicating. Effective communication is paramount at all levels of command. All of us, regardless of our military occupational specialty, train long and hard to do our jobs well. In the same way, we need to be constant learners of effective communication because this will develop us into effective leaders.



# Oldest survivor of Pearl Harbor attack visits Tripler

Story and photo by  
**LEANNE THOMAS**  
Tripler Army Medical Center  
Public Affairs

HONOLULU — The oldest survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, U.S. Navy veteran Ray Chavez of California, visited Tripler Army Medical Center, Dec. 8, as part of his trip to attend to the 76th Pearl Harbor commemoration ceremonies.

He was accompanied by his daughter Kathleen Chavez; Richard Rovsek, chairman of the Spirit of Liberty Foundation; and William Davis, the “American Santa.”

Upon entering the medical center, Rovsek announced Chavez’s arrival to a large gathering at Tripler’s dining facility during the annual holiday meal.

“This is Ray Chavez; he’s 105 years old and the oldest Pearl Harbor survivor,” Rovsek told those gathered.

Troops applauded Chavez and lined up to shake his hand, thank him for his service and snap a few “selfies” with him.

According to the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, on the day of the attack, Chavez was on the minesweeper Condor, which spotted the periscope of a Japanese midget submarine as it tried to enter Pearl Harbor.

“He never would talk about it, and the only reason why I knew he was there (at Pearl Harbor) was that my mother was there with him,” Kathleen Chavez said. “She told me about being here. Otherwise, he never said a word.”

Kathleen and her father began attending the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremonies in 1991, when she thought to ask if he would be interested in going.

“When my mother passed away and the 50th anniversary came along, I thought, ‘I wonder ...’ So I said to him, ‘Would you like to go?’” Kathleen said.

“The first time we went to the ceremony, it was very emotional, and he doesn’t show his emotions. ... I know it really touched him,” she said.

Since then, Kathleen and her father have attended Pearl Harbor commemorations about every five years until the 70th anniversary, when they decided they would come every year.

Operation Christmas Miracle, a program leveraged by the Spirit of Liberty, financed Chavez’s trip this year, and also coordinated the visit to Tripler.

“We (the foundation) have visited military hospitals from coast to coast from Walter Reed ... as far as to Germany in Landstuhl to the hospitals. We always



Ray Chavez, the oldest Pearl Harbor attack survivor, greets “American Santa” William Davis, Dec. 8, at the Tripler’s dining facility. Assisting Chavez is Joel Jenkins, Tripler’s protocol officer.

feel it is something we should do when we have Santa Claus, we should stop by and visit,” said Rovsek.

Every year in Hawaii, the Spirit of Liberty Foundation opens the Pearl Harbor commemoration ceremonies on Dec. 6.

“We are the first event and have been for several years, and we call it, ‘The Ringing of America’s Freedom Bell,’” explained Rovsek.

Chavez is often the honoree to be the first to ring the bell, and over the years, he has been honored at many Pearl Harbor commemoration ceremonies. But at 105 years old, that is not the reason why he makes a special trip out to Hawaii each year.

Kathleen said, “He goes to honor those he served with.”



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